



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

May, 19, 2014

Randall Overton, Bridge Management Specialist
Environmental Project Manager and Reviewer
Seventh Coast Guard District
909 SE 1st Avenue –Suite 432
Miami. FL 33131-3050

Subject: Proposed New Bridge Across the Manatee River, Manatee County, Florida, Final
Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
Docket Number: USCG-2010-0455, CEQ Number: 20140119
ERP Number: CGD-E50294-FL

Dear Mr. Overton:

Thank you for your interagency coordination efforts on a proposed project. Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the US EPA Region 4 has evaluated the consequences of the US Coast Guard proposal to construct a new bridge across the Manatee River, in Manatee County, Florida. The project proposes constructing a two lane bridge to cross the Manatee River.

The proposed project examines three alternatives, including a no build. The two build alternatives include one new two-lane bridge, mid-level fixed span at Fort Hamer Road, and a second with two-lane addition to an existing bridge on Rye Road.

Based on our review of the FEIS, EPA assigned a rating of "LO" to the document. The USEPA has noted the mitigation strategy mentioned in section 4.3.2.5 of the FEIS. With the proposed alternative, the USEPA will further evaluate the wetland mitigation and compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through the federal permitting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FEIS. If you have questions on our comments or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Maher Budeir at (404) 562-9514 or budeir.maher@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office
Office of Environmental Accountability

Cc: Ron Miedema, USEPA, Region 4, Water Protection Division